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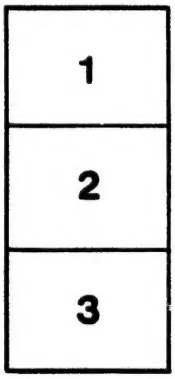

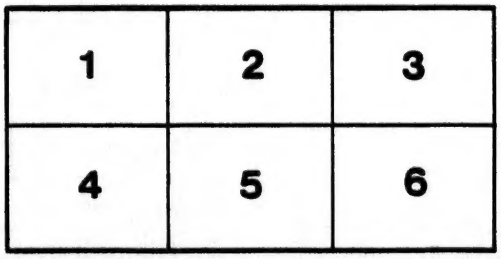

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE

REVIVALS of RELIGION

AMONG THE

CONGREGATIONALISTS and BAPTISTS,

IN A

NUMBER OF TOWNS IN THE

NEW-ENGLAND STATES,

AND ALSO IN

NOVA-SCOTIA.

EXTRACTED CHIEFLY FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY SEVERAL GENTLEMEN OF UNQUESTIONABLE VERACITY.

BOSTON: PRINTED.

BRISTOL: RE-PRINTED BY BIGGS AND CUTTLE.

1800.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT, &c.

EXTRACT I.

Mr. S——W——, of Windham, in Connecticut, thus writes to his Friend in Boston.

Windham, Oct. 2, 1798.

Rev. and dear Sir,

YOU will pardon me for troubling you with a line from so unworthy, though sincere a friend. It is a time of general health in these parts; but this is not the best news with which I shall acquaint you: for "as cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." God is carrying on a glorious work in several towns in these parts. The work began in the first society at *Mansfield*, about five or six months ago, in a very gradual manner; but soon took a very rapid spread in the west part of the town. A sermon preached in that neighbourhood at a funeral, by the Rev. Mr. *Shearman*, was greatly blessed. The Spirit of the Lord seemed to sweep all before it like an overflowing flood, though with very little noise. It is wonderful to see the surprizing alteration in the people in so short a time. I conclude there are not less than an hundred souls converted in that town since the work began. Soon after, it began in *Hampton*, but did not spread with the same rapidity as it did in *Mansfield*. The like happy work has lately taken place in *Ashford*, in the Rev. Mr. *Pond's* society, with a good degree of power. It has also spread into the second society in *Mansfield*, under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. *Welsh*; also in the upper part of *Canterbury*, and lately in *Abington* in *Pomfret*.

Dear sir, we may say, in the midst of judgment God is shewing himself marvellously good and kind; and tho' it seemed our land, a few months ago, was fully ripe for destruction, and the hot thunderbolts of divine wrath were hanging over our heads, yet God has made a rich display of his grace, in the conversion of many souls. One thing is remarkable in this reformation, there is such evidence carried in the work, that none, or but very few dare to oppose it. Bigotry, which was so common between the Standing Order, or the Congregationalists, and the Dissenters, is done away.—This work is chiefly among the Standing Order.

EXTRACT II.

Containing a further account of the same work, in a Letter from the Rev. E——— P———, to his Parents, dated Ashford, September 24, 1798.

Honored Parents,

I MUST inform you of the work of God, which is going on in these parts. Early in May, an attention to religion began in the first society in *Mansfield*, which increased to a great degree, so as to become general. It then began in *Hampton*, where it is as general as in *Mansfield*. About four weeks since, it began here, and, for the time, has spread very fast; so that about eighty have been under great concern: Of this number, nearly twenty have a good hope they have been "born again." The work seems to be spreading. In one family of my people who have only three little daughters, the eldest fifteen years old, they all give evidence that they have been born again! The work has also began in Mr. *Welsh's* society in *Mansfield*; and the prospects are very favorable in *Westford*.——Do unite in prayer that God would pour out his Spirit upon you. If only two or three can be induced to engage don't omit it. This seems to have been the beginning of the work in *Mansfield*.

EXTRACT III.

Containing an account of the beginning of the reformation in Hartford, in a Letter from the Rev. S——— S. N———, of that City, to his friend in Boston, dated January 14, 1799.

Rev. and dear Sir,

——A GLORIOUS revival of religion has lately taken place among us. Two of my brothers-in-law, the youngest about 12 years old, and the other fourteen, had been under deep conviction at times, for several weeks before our last Thanksgiving; and on that day, whilst I was preaching, the youngest was blest with great peace in believing, and went home with his soul overflowing with joy. This affected the whole family; several of whom we trust, could rejoice with him; all the rest were much alarmed, and led to cry out under pungent conviction, "What shall we do to be saved?" From this time it has spread from house to house, and from heart to heart, till almost the whole City has got alarmed.

I think as many as 15 or 20 have been hopefully converted; many more are under painful convictions, and the work still spreading. It has also extended its happy influence

among the other denominations, who have ſet up religious conferences, and welcome its approach.

We have meetings almoſt every evening in the week. Here is ſurely a Macedonian cry. " Do come over and help us."

EXTRACT IV.

Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a Letter from the Rev. J—— B——, dated at Trumbull, February 6, 1799, to his friend at Newbury Port.

My dear Friend and Brother.

THROUGH the kind hand of God, I arrived here yeſterday. I ſtopped at *Hartford*, and preached five ſermons.

The ſpirit of hearing at *Hartford* is greater than any repreſentations that have been made. Young people of both ſexes flock by hundreds, and the proſpect is flattering in the extreme. Conference meetings are held every night in different private houſes. In Mr. *Strong's* ſociety, 60 are thought to be under conviction, and 20 have been hopefully brought into goſpel liberty. In Mr. *Nelſon's* 30, and ſome in Mr. *Flint's*.

The youth hold correſpondence one with another by letters, and with thoſe of the neighboring towns. Hundreds are under ſome ſerious concern, while hundreds more ſtand aſtoniſhed, and are ready to cry, " *What meaneth all this ?*"

The Lord ſeems to have ſtepped out of the uſual path of ordinances, to effect this work more immediately in the diſplays of his almighty power, and the effuſion of his Spirit; probably to ſhew that the work is his own. It is not attended with noiſe and confuſion, but with ſolemnity and reverence. No fire; no ruſhing wind; no earthquake: but a ſtill ſmall voice goes before this wonderful work; no doubt, to hide pride from man. The miniſters are ſtirred up to uncommon diligence and labor, ſo that they have ſcarcely time to prepare for public exerciſes.

The ſacred flame has ſpread into many neighbouring towns* and the pious are flocking into *Hartford* to be eye-witneſſes of this glorious work. I have felt myſelf ſo much engaged in preaching, viſiting, and converſing with old and young, that my attention has been literally taken off from Wife, Children, Flock, and bodily infirmities. O that my paſt time had been better employed and filled than it has been. Should my health be continued, I hope, by the grace

* It is mentioned in a letter of April 25, from a reſpectable character in *Hartford*, that it has ſpread into nearly one hundred towns.

of God to ſpend my ſtrength wholly in the Lord's cauſe, which carries its own reward with it.

Two hundred miles N. W. of *Hartford* on the border of the *Indian* nations, I am informed that the Lord is pouring out his Spirit plentifully. The Aborigines† flock to hear the Goſpel, and fall under the w·d like Dagon before the Ark. I have ſeen a preacher from thoſe parts, who gives the moſt flattering accounts, and informs me, that very large numbers have been added to the churches in that vicinity, the laſt year.

After the ſermon was finiſhed upon a late occaſion in the woods, an *Indian* ſtood up with tears in his eyes, and thus addreſſed the audience: "I deſire to bleſs God, that white people ever came into this country. White people brought the Bible, and the religion of Jeſus with them. White people prayed for the converſion of the heathen, and I ſtand up this day as a living witneſs of the power of God's converting grace *in anſwer to their prayers*. Continue to pray for the converſion of more heathens, that they alſo may be brought to the knowledge of Jeſus."

EXTRACT V.

Rev. Caleb Blood, a Baptiſt Miniſter of Shaftſbury, in the State of Vermont, gives the following particulars of the reformation in that Town.

Rev. Sir, Feb. 21, 1799.

I AM ſenſible that under too great a degree of animation, even Chriſtians too often exaggerate their accounts of revivals of religion. But I will attempt a ſimple, but ſhort narrative of the late wonderful work of God in this place.

In the month of April laſt, there appeared nothing among this people but the moſt rapid increaſe of every ſpecies of vice and immorality; and even profeſſors had grown cold as to religious exerciſes.

Towards the laſt of that month, it pleaſed God to viſit my poor ſoul with ſome ſenſe of my own vileneſs and ſhort comings, and how little I had done for God and the good of ſouls. At this time I think I had a glimpſe of the infinite character of Jehovah, which made me ſhrink into nothing in my own eſteem; then, to my aſtoniſhment, my ſoul was ſtrangely drawn forth, at particular times, in ſecret prayer, for the ſalvation of ſinners. Repeated exerciſes of this kind gave me a ſtrong confidence, that the Lord would ſoon work ſalvation in this place. There were, however, no favorable ſymptoms among the people until the month

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† Or native Indians.

of July; then a young woman, who had been converted ſome years before, was ſtirred up, to propoſe herſelf for baptiſm. Her converſation was made the mean of the awakening of a number of young people. Thus the work began. In Auguſt, four perſons more were baptized. In September, I baptized ſeventeen. Many were awakened by the ſolemnity of this ordinance. (Indeed I think there was no one mean more bleſſed for the conviction of ſinners, through the whole courſe of this work, than the adminiſtration of baptiſm.) But to return; we as yet held our church conferences, to hear the relations of candidates, but once a month. At the cloſe of October, we were obliged to attend two days, and then were not able to hear all that wiſhed to relate. The next Lord's-day was a ſevere ſtorm; baptiſm was omitted: The church attended two days of that week alſo, to hear the young converts declare what the Lord had done for them. I was then under the neceſſity to call for aſſiſtance in adminiſtering baptiſm. Accordingly, brother *Samuel Rogers* attended the next Sabbath, and we baptized 46 that day. We then found it neceſſary to hold our church conferences to hear relations once a week. The next Sabbath I baptized 21; the next 16; the next 13; the next 9; and there have been but a few weeks ſince, that I have not been called to the precious work of baptizing. Zion's gates were then truly thronged with converts!

The whole number added to this church, ſince laſt May, is 175; 25 by letter and other ways; and 150 by baptiſm. Our whole number is 346. Many of this number are removed into different parts of the country; there are, however, nearly 300 that live in this vicinity, the remoteſt of them not more than ſix miles from our meeting-houſe.

There have alſo been 70 added to the Weſt church in this town ſince the work began; and 13 to the Eaſt church.

As to the principal means by which this work has been carried on, I muſt ſay, that no one's little or great preaching can juſtly lay any claim to the honors of it. Several brethren in the miniſtry have viſited us in the time, and all of them were bleſſed in their labors. A brother *Jones*, from *England*, was an inſtrument of awakening ſome.

I have been filled with wonder and aſtoniſhment, to ſee how the Lord has been pleaſed to ſucceed ſome of almoſt all the preaching that has been in this town ſince I have been here. Even when I had mourned and thought I had labored in vain, and that my preaching was as water ſpilt upon a rock; the Lord has now made it manifeſt that he deſigned it for the good of ſouls. O my brother, let us never be diſcouraged; we cannot always tell when our labors are bleſſed. I cannot ſay how many, but the Lord has made my

poor weak efforts the means of awakening a conſiderable number. But the greateſt part of the people have been awakened by attending the ſolemnity of baptiſm, and by converſation one with another.—Indeed, the moſt that I can ſay is, It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

There has not, in years paſt, been the moſt cordial fellowſhip between the three baptiſt churches in *Shaftſbury*, but the Lord has now effected a happy union between us. On the laſt Lord's-day in January, we all met at one communion table. That happy day my ſoul had deſired for years. Nothing but experience could have made me believe it poſſible, that I could have felt ſo much ſolid delight, anticipated ſo much trouble, and rejoiced with ſo much trembling, at one and the ſame time. That day I truſt will never be forgotten by me.

The north part of *Bennington*, which lies ſouth of us, has ſhared conſiderably in this grace, ſeveral from thence have joined the churches in this town, and ſome few members from the town north of us; but the greateſt part that have been wrought upon are within this town which is ſix miles ſquare.

In about two months after the work began, the whole town ſeemed to be affected. Conference meetings were attended two or three times in a week in almoſt every neighborhood; and it was ſurpriſing to me, that ſcarcely a ſingle inſtance appeared of any over-heated zeal, or ſlight of paſſion! Both ſinners under conviction, and thoſe newly brought into the liberty of the goſpel, converſed in their meetings with the greateſt freedom; they ſpake one at a time a few words, in the moſt ſolemn manner I ever heard people in my life. And in general they ſpake ſo low, that their aſſemblies muſt be perfectly ſtill, or they could not hear them: Yet a remarkable power attended their converſation. Sinners would tremble as though they felt themſelves in the immediate preſence of the great Jehovah.

Some of all ranks and characters among us have been taken; from the moſt reſpectable members of ſociety, to the vileſt in the place. Some of our *moſt noted Deiſts* have bowed the knee to King Jeſus. And a *number of Univerſaliſts* have forſaken their deluſions, and embraced the truth.

In the revival four years ago laſt ſummer, we then received *ten children* into the church, aged *from nine to thirteen* years, with a number of other young people; all of them remain in good ſtanding with us, and are now able to help others; excepting one, who, I truſt, is gone to the church triumphant. In this revival we have received ſixteen whoſe ages are from *nine to fifteen* years. From nine, I have baptized ſome of almoſt every age up to ſeventy!

We have now upwards of one hundred unmarried perſons in this church. There are alſo a large number of youths

who have joined the other churches in this town. O my God! keep them in the love of the truth! My very ſoul trembles when I think of them. There is not a ſufficient number of young people now left in the town (who can unite) to carry on their merry meetings. Every company of them is broken up.

I lately enjoyed the happineſs of having upwards of ſeventy youths and children, that were profeſſors, to viſit and hold a conference at my houſe in one evening. You may gueſs, but it would be difficult to tell, with what a mixture of joy and trembling I was then filled.

The ſevereſt cold, ſnow and ice we have had this tedious winter, I have not heard once mentioned as any terror to the moſt delicate ladies, young or old, we have in the place; but they have chearfully followed their Divine Redeemer into the liquid grave, without the leaſt intimidation.

As to myſelf, I think if ever I knew what it was to have extraordinary ſtrength, it has been within a few months paſt. My lungs, which I had thought were on the decay, now ſeemed to renew their youth. Preaching three and four times a week, beſides attending other meetings almoſt every day for months together, ſeemed very little if any to exhauſt my ſtrength. I think, of all men in the world, I have the greateſt cauſe to be humble before God, for his abundant goodneſs beſtowed upon a moſt unworthy wretch.

When I think upon my weakneſs and inſufficiency, and the great number of young, inexperienced Chriſtians committed to my charge, my heart ſhrinks within me; and I am ready to wiſh they had a more able and pious watchman to go before them. But all the hope I have is, that He who leadeth Joſeph like a flock will gather the lambs in his arms, and gently lead his flock into the flowery fields of goſpel truth, and beſide the ſtill waters of eternal life.

I ſometimes anticipate ſo much trouble, that it quite abſorbs my ſpirits, and drowns my joy. Then I think it beſt to rejoice when I can, and let to-morrow take thought for itſelf.

It is, however, a very intereſting criſis with us; if we are faithful, and make a right improvement of the great mercies beſtowed upon us, we may continue to be a happy people: if not, a ſeries of trouble and ſorrow awaits us. Dear brother, pray for us that we may be kept in the love of the truth; that the God of love and peace may ever dwell with us.

I muſt not indulge my feelings, I ſhall intrude upon your patience.

EXTRACT VI.

A Gentleman in Pembroke thus writes to his Friend in Boston.

Pembroke April 2, 1799.

Dear Sir,

GOD has been pleased to begin a glorious work in the first parish in *Marshfield*, and a few scattering drops in towns adjoining, although but a few as yet. O may we all be enabled to wrestle like Jacob and prevail like Israel. We need the prayers of all who have an interest at the throne of grace, that we may be kept from error and delusion. O may the time soon come, when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth, as the waters do the seas.

As to the present state of the reformation among us, there are between 30 and 40, in a judgment of charity, brought to the knowledge of the truth; and more than that number appear to be under serious impressions of mind.

EXTRACT VII.

The Rev. P——— P———, of Deer-Isle, writes thus in a Letter to his Friend in Newbury-Port.

Deer-Isle, March 20, 1799.

Dear Brother,

IN your last letter to me, you wrote you had heard there was a revival of religion somewhere in these parts; and desired me to give you an account of it.

In the beginning of June last, I was called to *Mount Desert* to administer sacraments to a church that have not a stated Pastor, and tarried with them about nine days; when, in the preaching of my second Sermon, the glory of the Lord came down in a wonderful manner. One convicted, and hopefully converted under that Sermon, was added to the Church about two days after, and three others who had before obtained a hope. Three months after this, I went again to administer the Lord's Supper, at which time I admitted twenty-eight who had hopefully been brought home in the interval. The work of conviction was then going on powerfully in that town, and spreading into those adjoining on the same island.* Our association had licensed dear Mr. *Ebenezer Eaton* to preach, who improved his talent, laboring night and day among them, whom the Lord remarkably owned. How many have been brought out since I was there, I am not informed; but according to the best accounts, there are many. The Lord multiply the number, and add to the Church such as shall be saved.

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* Mount Desert is an Island in Penobscott Bay.

I now come a little nearer home. In the beginning of winter, this glorious work began in *Sedgwick*, under the paſtoral care of the Rev. *Daniel Merrill*. Perhaps there hath not been a work ſo powerful, and ſo much like the work fifty-eight years ago. In a time of ſuch extraordinaries, it could not reaſonably be expected but ſome things would be a little wild and incoherent, conſidering the various tempers, infirmities, and diſpoſitions of mankind: But, I believe my young and dear brother *Merrill*, with other experienced Chriſtians were very careful to diſtinguiſh the precious from the vile—to correct errors, "to ſet the people in the way of his ſteps," ſo that there appears to be no prevalence of enthuſiaſm among them, according to the beſt information. How great the number of thoſe who have been brought to hope, I am not able to give any tolerable good account: Some ſay there are about an hundred, others about double that number: I believe they are all very uncertain. Bleſſed be God, the work is ſtill going on there, though not with equal rapidity.

And now, dear Sir, let your imagination paint to your view the ſtriking ſcene of an hundred ſouls, men, women, and children, at the ſame time under the work of the law. The tears, ſobs, groans, and cries iſſuing from ſcores at a time! All the terrors of the law crowding and preſſing in upon them; their ſins, in infinite numbers and aggravations, ſtaring them in the face; all their old vain hopes gone, and cut off, and every refuge failing! Hear them freely confeſſing their old abominations, their former enmity to the great doctrines of original ſin, election, the ſovereignty of divine, free grace, the power of God diſplayed in effectual vocation; above all, the juſtice of God in their damnation! How often are ſouls brought out into the peace and comfort of the love of God, and the ſweet conſolations of the Holy Spirit. The dead hear the voice of the Son of God, and live. Children are brought to cry "Hoſanna to the Son of David." Indeed this glorious work has been wonderful among children: and God has made inſtruments of them to perfect his praiſe in carrying on his work.

This bleſſed work of God has begun in *Blue-Hill*; but as yet has not gained the aſcendency, I ſhall therefore come to my own dear people of *Deer-Iſle*. And here, perhaps the work is as remarkable as at *Sedgwick*, but not ſo rapid. Not more than eight months ago it appeared to me that religion was near expiring among us, except in a very handful of profeſſors. Deiſm had taken an unaccountable ſtride, and ſpread itſelf over a great number of the inhabitants. And now, No Bible, no Chriſt! The Chriſtian religion, and Chriſtians, were the ſong of the drunkard; and drunkenneſs

and every vice was deemed harmleſs, and inoffenſive to God. I had no reaſon to think but by the next annual meeting of the town, they would vote the Goſpel out from them. When the aforementioned work at *Penobſcot* and *Mount Deſert* was going on, it ſeemed to have no influence on our people. This, you may be ſure, was very grievous to me. However, I think I was enabled to bear witneſs to the truth with great freedom. In October, I perceived a more cloſe attention to the word, but nothing ſpecial as yet. After I was confined to my houſe, the work began to appear; and though I could not go abroad, nor preach at the Meeting-houſe, there was ſeldom a day but more or leſs viſited me under their trouble, and I preached in my own houſe when I was not able to ſtand on my feet. At length we had the aſſiſtance of Mr. *E. Eaton*, whom God remarkably owns. I believe there are about forty men, women, and children, who have obtained a hope; and great numbers are under preſſing conviction. The work is now on the increaſe. May the Lord continue and ſtill increaſe it till they are all brought in. The mouth of deiſm is at preſent ſtopped, and againſt the children of Iſrael not ſo much as a dog is ſuffered to move his tongue. O may the Lord go on from conquering to conquer, till the whole earth ſhall be filled with his glory.

Thus, dear Sir, I have complied with your deſire. If you think proper, you may cauſe the foregoing Narrative to be printed in the newſpapers. Such accounts may be a mean of putting a careleſs people under conſideration.

EXTRACT VIII.

A Letter from a perſon in Deer-Iſle, to a Society with which he is connected in Newbury-Port, dated March 15, 1799.

Dear Friends and Brethren.

WHILE I am partaking a rich repaſt, I heartily deſire my friends may have a ſhare of a feaſt indeed. It is in vain for me to attempt to deſcribe the wonders of the love and grace of God manifeſted in a marvellous manner among us, and in the adjacent parts. It has pleaſed God to viſit us by the out-pouring of his bleſſed Spirit, ſo that even oppoſers acknowledge it to be the work of God, of whom ſome of the greateſt have been (I hope) ſavingly wrought upon.

This bleſſed and glorious work firſt began in a ſmall neighborhood that have lived in a careleſs and negligent manner as to their attendance on the means of grace: The head of the firſt family that was wrought upon, is a man of about ſixty years of age: I never ſaw him at meeting but

twice since I lived on the Island, before this winter: God has been pleased to visit him and his wife, and they both appear to be humble Christians, with several others of that family. The work is daily increasing and spreading through the town; there were 4 or 5 brought into light under one sermon this week; there have been 19 persons come forward and made a public profession of religion, and joined the Church already, and nearly as many more profess to have a hope.

This work has been more extensive in *Sedgwick*: I am credibly informed it has visited every house for 14 miles, and about one hundred souls are hopefully converted. What shall we say to these things? Let us adore the free grace of our blessed God and Savior. I think there is great encouragement for all that love our Lord, and have an interest at the throne of grace, to plead with God to spread this glorious work. Let us all adore and praise his name for his wonderful works to the sons of men. I bless God that he has given me to see such glorious days of the Son of Man. It has been a Sabbath to me all this winter; I have enjoyed a continual feast, and find it good to wait on God. I had rather be a door-keeper in his house, than to dwell in the tents of sin.

O that it would please God to cause a glorious shower of divine grace to descend upon you. My soul longs for your salvation, that every member of your little society may be a partaker of the heavenly grace; may this be a mean of stirring you up, and engaging your hearts in the things of God. Let not worldly cares turn your attention from this most important concern: Not only our present but everlasting happiness lies here.

EXTRACT IX.

A Letter written by Mrs. A——— S———, in the District of Maine, to the Rev. Isaac Backus, at Middleborough.

Dear Sir, Litchfield, April 6, 1799.

THERE has been a wonderful out-pouring of God's Spirit in these parts this winter; especially among the youth. As many as 25 have joined this church this winter, who are not more than 20 years old; and one lad who was but nine. I believe there is not one house missed for seven or eight miles, but what the Lord has taken some out of every family. And one family, who but a few years ago were in open opposition to this cause, 7 out of 11 have now professed to know Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection; one of whom was baptized last Lord's-day. And while we were by the water side, the power of the Lord came down like the rushing of a mighty wind. One young

woman was ſo ſtruck with a ſenſe of her duty that ſhe could not ſtand on her feet. The people ſeeing her faulter, thought ſhe was faint; but ſhe ſaid No, no; her friends were in ſuch oppoſition to the Baptiſts, that ſhe had never ſaid any thing openly about religion.—In the afternoon inſtead of a ſermon ſhe told her exerciſes, and two more, who were baptized the ſame day. We thought the reformation was almoſt over in this place; but we find the Lord has not forſaken us; bleſſed be his name, he is ſtill giving us a taſte of his Love.

EXTRACT X.

Another Letter, dated Bowdoinham, April 29, 1799. from the Rev. Job Macomber, to the ſame, contains the following.

SINCE our laſt aſſociation, elder *William Stinſon*, who is ordained over the firſt church in *Litchfield*, has baptized 118. The greateſt part of them belong to that town. The winter before laſt there was the moſt powerful work in *Bowdoin* that I ever ſaw ſince I came into theſe parts. It prevailed through the town. *Elder Potter* baptized 22 in one day. And it was as powerful in *Litchfield* laſt winter; Elder *Stinſon* baptized 13 there in one day. Theſe were two as cold winters as were ever known here. The work has now begun in this town. Six perſons have lately manifeſted a change of heart; two of them are my children. The work ſtill prevails.

EXTRACT XI.

From the Rev. J——— D———, in NOVA-SCOTIA, *to his Friend in Boſton, dated Halifax, May 25, 1799.*

Dear Brother,

NOTWITHSTANDING many complaints as to the ſtate of religion in ſome parts; yet God is marvellouſly viſiting ſeveral townſhips with the ſhowers of his grace. In *Annapolis* County the following places have ſhared largely, viz. *Granville*, *Willmouth*, *Nictau*, and *Aylesford*. In *King's County*, *Horton* and *Cornwallis*, have been wonderfully viſited. Sinners have been converted to God, and Chriſtians to their duty. Two Pedo-baptiſt Miniſters have been baptized, and a great many young converts. The three laſt ſacramental occaſions, I think there were baptized, the 1ſt. thirteen—the 2d. twenty-ſeven—the 3d. twenty-eight.

There are alſo favorable ſymptoms among the Dutch people at *Lunenburgh*. Many of them who had been violent oppoſers of religion, having ſpent all their arrows, ſay they will fight no more. Some are under very ſerious impreſſions, and a few hopefully converted.

EXTRACT XII.

*Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a Letter from the Rev. T—— H. C——, to his Friend in Boſton, dated Annapolis in Nova-Scotia, July 15, 1799.**

Dear Sir,

I AM confident you will be glad to hear of the advancement of Chriſt's Kingdom, though by an unſkilful hand. Therefore ſhall attempt to give you ſome account of what God has done among us. The Fall after I was laſt at *Boſton*, it pleaſed God to viſit our Society, at the lower part of *Granville*; it was a bleſſed time of God's power, and additions were made to the Church. A year ago laſt January, God began to viſit us here, and in our Society at *Willmouth*, where I preach a third part of my time. It has been a moſt aſtoniſhing time of God's power, ſuch as I never knew before. I cannot give you a full deſcription of it. I have frequently been called out of my bed at night to viſit diſtreſſed ſouls. They have ſometimes been brought from the deepeſt diſtreſs to ſhout the praiſes of the living God. My four eldeſt children, I doubt not are made partakers of grace divine. Two of them are baptized. Since the work began, I have baptized 173 perſons (in about thirteen months) but not all in our church. *Cornwallis* and *Horton* have ſhared largely with us. I have baptized two of our Miniſters† laſt ſummer, and am to baptize another as ſoon as I can go where he lives.

Our Congregations have increaſed greatly. Laſt year we built a new Meeting-Houſe at the upper end of *Granville*, where I preach a third part of my time, and this ſummer we have enlarged it twenty feet. O that we may never be highminded but fear.

EXTRACT XIII.

From a Miniſter in Connecticut, to his Friend in Boſton.

Dear Brother in Chriſt. Lyme June 30, 1799.

ACCORDING to your deſire, I will endeavour to deſcribe ſome of the effects of the glorious work of God in this place, the preceding Fall and Winter. Previous to which, I muſt inform you, there was a great ſtupidity on the minds of our brethren, who appeared to dwell in their ceiled houſes while the houſe of God lay waſte. There were a few drops in the month of Auguſt; but on the firſt Lord's-day

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* In 1794, there were four Baptiſt Churches in *Nova-Scotia*, the principal Miniſter was *Henry Chipman*. See *Aſplund's* Regiſter.

† This Connexion or Aſſociation was formed of Pedo and Anti-pedobaptiſts.

in September, many began to be alarmed; we therefore thought it our duty to appoint a day of faſting and prayer, which was on the ſeventh day of the ſame month.—There was an univerſal ſolemnity, and profound attention obſerved on the face of the aſſembly, which exceeded any thing I ever ſaw before.—It was a faſt day indeed. The ſaints aroſe by confeſſion of the infinite evil of ſin,—with fixed reſolution to lead a new life.—And in the cloſe of the day (like St. Paul) they thanked God, and took courage. After this our meetings increaſed, and the bleſſed effuſions of the Holy Spirit were diſtilled upon us. It was affecting to behold the ſaints exhorting; backſliders returning; and poor ſinners crying for mercy. On the firſt Lord's-day in October we attended on the ordinance of baptiſm. My poor ſoul was warmed with the love of God, which made me ſpeak from the heart, and it reached the hearts of my brethren, and the dear aſſembly; and we enjoyed communion with the Father, Son, and Spirit, at the Lord's Table.

After this, conferences increaſed. My brethren were much engaged in prayer to God for the effuſion of his Spirit. At ſome of our conferences there was a great ſolemnity upon the youth and children; one of whom mourned that ſhe had lived in ſin twelve years, till ſhe thought ſhe become an old ſinner; but it pleaſed God at this time to reveal Chriſt to her and many others, and to give them the hope of glory.

On the firſt Lord's-day in November, I baptized two.—It was a good ſeaſon. The ninth of this month, was a memorable night! The Lord glorioufly manifeſted his power and love in bringing three perſons into the full liberty of the Goſpel; one of whom was my fifth child, who I truſt is brought into the Kingdom of Chriſt. Another in agony of ſoul cried out, "If I do go to hell, I will go begging for mercy!" and her diſtreſs increaſed to ſuch a degree, that ſhe left her chamber the latter part of the night, and went into a burying yard, and fell on her knees in great diſtreſs, till the kind Lord revealed himſelf to her in a wonderful manner. The third was a woman near forty years of age, who gave a clear relation of the love of God to her ſoul. We now ſaw, both in the houſe of God and in our own houſes, the ſweet influences of the bleſſed Spirit bowing ſtout-hearted ſinners to the ſceptre of Emanuel.

The firſt of December was our Covenant Meeting preceding the Lord's-day, which was taken up in hearing the relations of candidates. A number more related their exerciſes the day following; and notwithſtanding it was a very ſevere ſnow ſtorm, twelve were baptized, a number of whom were youths from ten to fifteen years of age. The ſaints in general were animated with the love of God, and

were mighty in prayer for precious souls, triumphing over the united powers of darkness. Indeed it is almost beyond my power to give a full description of this wonderful scene. It is also to be remarked that our brethren of the Presbyterian order and other denominations joined with us in promoting the cause of our blessed Redeemer. About this time, meetings on week-days were appointed, for receiving candidates, and attending to baptism; and though the severity of this tedious winter, I never heard any one complain or shrink at the cross, on account of the coldness of the weather.

This work has been gloriously carried on in the spirit of love. In the first part of it, there was great outcrying, but it gradually subsided into a free deliberate conversation on the dreadful situation they were in by nature; and their full determination to continue seeking till they should find him of whom Moses and the Prophets did write. I never saw less opposition to the work of God.

The principal part of this work, was in our Society; but it has spread into others in the neighboring towns. More than a hundred we hope have received the grace of God; and more than eighty have joined the church under my care.

When I consider the great number of souls committed to my charge, and my own insufficiency, my heart shrinks within me; but all my hope is in the great Head of the Church. My daily prayer is, that he would grant me his grace as an under Shepherd, to discharge my duty towards God and my dear Flock, during my few remaining days.

The number of members under my care at present, is three hundred and thirty six.

INFORMATION, though not very correct, has also been received from a number of towns in *Cheshire* County, in *New-Hampshire*, of a very pleasing and extensive reformation.

The following towns are said to have shared largely in it, viz. *Unity*, *Marlow*, *Lamster*, *Alstead*, *Ackworth*, *Cornish*, and *Plainfield*, with some others in that neighborhood. The towns of *Strafham* and *New-Market*, in *New-Hampshire*, are favored at this time with like revivals; but for want of accurate documents, a particular account cannot be given.

If the repentance of one sinner causes joy in heaven among the angels of God, what shouts of immortal praise must have echoed through all the realms of bliss, upon the accession of such numbers to the Redeemer's Kingdom!

O Lord, may thy Kingdom come, and thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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